Attorney Docket No. 242/300

CLEAN SET OF REPLACEMENT CLAIMS

1.   (Amended) A method for retail check-out comprising the steps of:

establishing a communication link between (a) a self-checkout station incorporating a customer-operated automated payment-accepting subsystem and (b) a data storage unit in which a plurality of data records are stored, each of the plurality of data records corresponding to a respective one of a plurality of identifiers that was read by a portable data reading unit before the communication link was established;

inputting the plurality of data records from the data storage unit via the communication link established in the establishing step;

determining a price total for a plurality of items corresponding to the plurality of identifiers based on the plurality of data records inputted in the inputting step; and

accepting payment for the plurality of items based on the price total determined in the determining step,

wherein the step of accepting payment is performed using the customer-operated automated payment-accepting subsystem.

5.   (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the portable data reading unit comprises a barcode reader selected from a group consisting of: a flying spot scanner, an optical imaging reader, and a wand reader.

13.   (Amended) The method of claim 8, wherein the step of linking comprises a step of placing the portable reading unit into a cradle on the self-checkout station.

16.   (Amended) A self-checkout station comprising:

a data input port that inputs a plurality of data records from a portable data storage unit;

a first controller that determines a price for a plurality of items corresponding to the plurality of data records inputted via the data input port; and

a non-portable customer-operated automated payment-acceptor that generates an output signal based on an amount of tendered payment,

WP-17182.1   2

wherein at least one of the first controller and the automated payment-acceptor generates an indication when a tendered payment is sufficient to pay the price determined by the first controller.

18.   (Amended) The self-checkout station of claim 17, wherein the portable data reading unit comprises a barcode reader selected from a group consisting of: a flying spot scanner, an optical imaging reader, and a wand reader.

26.   (Amended) The system of claim 25, wherein the identifiers are barcodes, the data reader identifies the selected items by reading the barcodes, and the data reader comprises a barcode reader selected from a group consisting of: a flying spot scanner, an optical imaging reader, and a wand reader.

34.   (Amended) The system of claim 33, wherein the data reader identifies the selected items by reading barcodes, and the data reader comprises a barcode reader selected from a group consisting of: a flying spot scanner, an optical imaging reader, and a wand reader.

37.   (Amended) The system of claim 33, wherein the base station memory stores a price look-up table, and wherein a total price for selected items is computed based on a price look-up table.